

Flou. A. Loudon Snowden
Suptdt.

United States Mint, Philadelphia, Penn.,

MELTER AND REFINER'S DEPARTMENT,

3rd June —, 1879.

Sir,

We ordered melting cups of a special form, on 6th May, of the 3 good makers of black lead ware in Phil^a, asking a dozen of each maker for trial. Two sets are passable, altho' Taylor's appear to be best adapted to use, as our melters think, but the 3^d set from Ross, &c are so entirely at variance with sample, that I do not know what to do with them. I submit to you the 3 letters bearing on the subject, & then if you will look at Cup of Ross, &c. you will perceive how wide the deviation from a very explicit order.

I have to report that we almost wholly destitute of N^o 70 melting Pots, & that at a venture we tried some of Newcumet's make. Another broke through this morning spilling the silver over gratebars & through ashes. On these, of which the late Suptdt. thought it his duty to order 100 or more, I can only express the opinion, which every melter in the Mint, that has tried them, will echo, that

they ought not to be used for gold or silver. I gave orders to use them for melting bronze only, but need obliged us to use some of them to the jeopardy of my accounts.

If you are desirous to try the other 3 firms I suggest that each of them be requested to make some 50 No-70's. In the mean time I would like to order some 50 of Robert Taylor & Co. already made, as we are sadly in need of some good pots, and with our present business of bronze, silver & gold, have not time to give to recovering the waste of breaking concibles, apart from the danger or rather certainty of loss by fracture.

Respectfully yours
J. C. Booth

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent.

U. S. Mint, Melter and Refiner's Department,

PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

June 3., 1879.

Geo. B. Booth

Melter and Refiner.

Reports defective
melting cups from
Bass, Hopkirk & Dawson;
ditto No. 70 melting pots
from Neukumel; & con-
sequent loss & delay.

Wishes to order 50
No. 70's, ready made,
from Robt Taylor & Co.

No. of Enclosures, 3.

Recd June 2nd, 1879.

[Abstract:] Reports defective melting cups... 301

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Suptdt.

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Melter and Refiner's Department,
June 3, 1879

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Respectfully yours,
Jas. C. Booth

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent.